



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **February 11, 2014 Minutes**

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Main Room of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard, Jen Rothenberg and Elena Bartholomew. Peter Hedlund was not in attendance. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly.

Members from the public: Susan Stamps, Clarissa Rowe and Joe Sancinito

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the minutes of January 14, 2014, Ms. Rothenberg seconded and approved 5-0.

### **Open Forum – Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **AHS Temporary Fence Request Spy Pond**

A request was made from the Arlington High School Athletic Director Melissa Dlugolecki for a temporary fence for baseball to be installed at Spy Pond Field. The AHS varsity baseball coach Joe Sancinito was present. Mr. Sancinito stated that he would put the fence up in April and take it down the end of the season in June. Ms. Mayer stated that she had seen temporary fencing for this purpose in other communities put up before and taken down after game and would prefer this approach in this location. The temporary fence would run from one foul pole to the other. The cost and maintenance of the fence will be the responsibility of the School Department. Mr. Sancinito will send specific information on the fence to Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the fence as a one-year pilot subject to the appearance of the fence, Ms. Rothenberg seconded and approved 4-1-0. Ms. Mayer opposed.

### **Public Request to Extend Lights at Wellington Tennis to 9:30 PM**

Tabled. This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Park Commission Retreat Review**

The Park Commission retreat went very well. A lot of information was covered in a short period of time. Mr. Connelly is waiting for the full report and will share with the Commission.

The Commission discussed the issue of terms for Commission chair and vice chair. Ms. Canniff motioned to adopt one year terms for the chairperson and vice chairperson with the vice chairperson becoming chairperson after one year. The vice chairperson position would then be filled with the next most senior member. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

The Commission discussed the vacant vice chairperson position. Ms. Rothenberg and Mr. Robillard were both eligible with Mr. Robillard recommending Ms. Rothenberg for the position at this time. Ms. Rothenberg stated that she would accept the position, which goes in immediate effect. Mr. Vitters motioned for Ms. Rothenberg to be appointed to vice chairperson, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

The Commission decided that the terms would begin immediately but would not renew until July 1, 2015, at which time Ms. Rothenberg will assume the position of chair and Mr. Robillard vice chair.

### **Review of Relevant Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

Article 8 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment / Regulation of Outdoor Lighting – Dark Skies Bylaw. Ms. Mayer reached out to the main proponent of Article 8 to understand the problem that they are trying to address. They are looking to tighten the current Bylaw and improve night vision. It will be recommended that exclusions be granted for holiday lighting, playing fields and courts. Mr. Connelly will draft up concerns.

Article 22 – Acceptance of Legislation / Community Preservation Act (CPA). Ms. Susan Stamps from the CPA for Arlington Committee explained what the CPA is and how it works. The CPA establishes a dedicated funding source to enable towns to acquire and preserve open space; create and restore lands for recreational uses; preserve and rehabilitate historic buildings and sites; and create and support affordable housing. A surcharge on property taxes is determined at the local level and communities also receive a distribution from the statewide CPA Trust Fund. Town Meeting must approve a ballot question that would then need approval of Arlington voters. The percentage of the surcharge on property taxes to be requested still needs to be determined. Ms. Stamp is looking for the Commission to endorse and advocate for the CPA and to get potential project ideas from the Commission. The Commission took no position at this time.

### **Capital Improvement Project Update**

**Florence Avenue Playground** – Mr. Connelly spoke to a representative from ME O'Brien about the swing situation. The representative will be reaching out to Landscape Structures to see if there is more that can be done to replace the swings.

**Hibbert Park and North Union Spray Pool** – Mr. Connelly spoke with Weston and Sampson. They are recommending electrical, instead of hydraulic, to run the spray elements on the spray pool project. Plans for the projects have been reviewed by DPW, and recommendations have been received from the consultants doing the ADA review. Bids will be opened by the next meeting.

**ADA Study** – The ADA assessment is ongoing, though this winter's severe weather has slowed the field inspections.

### **Thorndike Tree Planning during State Highway Construction**

Conservation Commission Administrator, Cori Beckwith, sent over a diagram with the proposed locations of new trees. Discussion was tabled at this time.

### **Rink and Recreation Update**

No Report

### **Commission Liaison Reports**

The **Friends of Parks** meeting was held on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014. The idea of holding a fundraiser at the Reservoir Beach (date to be determined) was discussed, and there was a lot of excitement from the Friends. The Commission all agreed this was a good idea. There will be a Friends of Parks meeting on Feb. 27, 2014 to further discuss the fundraiser in more detail. More information will follow. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the concept, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

There will be an **Open Space** Committee meeting on Feb. 27, 2014 at 7:30 PM. The new Open Space Plan needs to be reviewed and updated.

The consultants working with the **Master Plan** Committee have determined that parks, fields, playgrounds and other recreation facilities and programs should be evaluated in the Public Services and Facilities working paper, which will be presented on Wed., Feb. 26, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Commissioners are encouraged to review and comment on this working paper. The Natural Resources; Open Space & Recreation, Historic & Cultural Resources working paper is not scheduled to be released until May 2014, and it is unknown at this time how the review of recreation properties will overlap in the two working papers.

### **Other**

The Robbins Farm sledding update will be discussed at the March Commission Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation